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SECRETS OF BRAIN PROBED FOR CURES

**Attack on Mental Illnesses Is
Hindered by Organ's Maze
of Inaccessible Functions**

By **ROBERT K. PLUMB**

The more man probes, the more complicated the human brain appears. Indeed, it now seems to be the most incredibly complex physical structure in the universe.

The ten or twelve billion separate nerve cells in the brain are hooked together in linkages that we cannot trace out. These linkages in turn are interconnected in some mysterious way and connected together again and again so that all the nerve cells in the brain can work together—to handle a hundred different conscious or unconscious factors without an error, to appreciate a rose or to write a poem.

The physical structure of the brain has been studied for centuries. It is still a matter for profound research. When a man of genius dies, even in this age, anatomists study his brain and compare it with the brains of other geniuses and with the brains of ordinary men. So far no significant differences have been found.

Some Factors Unreachable

The gross structure of the brain—which has been well mapped—is, of course, only a tiny corner of the problem of the brain. The mind, the will, the thoughts, the actions that the brain produces cannot be analyzed for their structure and origin. No scientist has ever made a thought wiggle out onto a glass where it could be studied with the conventional tools of physical science.

This is an important reason why the brain remains one of the big mysteries of the body. It is a reason why new discoveries about the working of the brain have captured the imagination of scientists throughout the world.

THE BRAIN

a program of restricted medical and psychiatric films

APHASIA

U.S. 1950

(37 minutes)

A Presentation of the Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery. Technical Advisor: J.M. Nielson. Distribution (restricted): Vet. Administration.

Aphasia - a disturbance affecting the patient's reading, speaking, writing or understanding functions - is caused by an injury to the brain affecting the particular areas in which the language and speech centers are located. This film demonstrates both the nature and the symptoms of aphasia, and then portrays various methods of psychological and personality testing as well as therapy used in cases of sensory, motor and formulation aphasia.

FOLIE A DEUX

Canada 1951

(15 minutes)

A National Film Board of Canada Production (by Robert Anderson) for the Mental Health Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Directed by Stanley Jackson. Restricted distribution: Contemporary Films

FOLIE A DEUX denotes a mental disease in which a psychosis develops first in one person and then in another closely attached to the one originally affected. In this case, the psychosis developed first in the daughter and was then communicated to the mother. The film was produced for medical schools and for professional groups and offers neither explanation nor cure, but simply a demonstration of the symptoms. It won the First Prize in the Mental Hygiene Category at the Venice International Film Festival 1951.

SEIZURE

U.S. 1951

(30 minutes)

A United World Films Production for the U.S. Veterans Administration. Restricted distribution: Veterans Administration.

This is the first film to deal with epilepsy in an adult fashion. It portrays the clinical manifestations of epileptic seizures,

the newer methods of treatment and the social and occupational problems of the patients. It also successfully avoids the usual, fraudulent "happy end", preferring to close on a thoughtful note that speaks out against the prevailing ignorance regarding this subject.

UNCONSCIOUS MOTIVATION

U. S. 1949

(38 minutes)

Produced by Dr. Lester F. Beck. Restricted distribution to qualified groups: Association Films.

This astonishing film record shows the inducement of an artificial neurosis at an unconscious level by hypnotic suggestion in a young man and a young woman. Upon reawakening, the subjects, by means of dream analysis and psychological tests, gradually realize first the existence of a traumatic experience and then its content by slowly re-constructing the "events" (fabricated by the psychologist) that caused it. By sharing their feelings and thoughts (as in group therapy), they help each other to a full understanding of the neurosis and are consequently freed from feelings of guilt and anxiety.

In this film, instead of reading about the subconscious, we actually see it at work: for this unusual film document is entirely unstaged and unrehearsed and is presented exactly as it was filmed - with 2 cameras running continuously and no attempt being made at editing or creative camera work. The reactions of the two subjects are spontaneous and hence, unpredictable. In its clear demonstration of how unconscious motives can influence and direct our everyday thoughts, feelings and actions, the film is not only an accurate and authentic clinical protocol, but a most provocative motion picture as well.

Dr. Beck, formerly of the Department of Psychology at the University of Oregon and subsequently Chairman of the Department of Cinema at the University of Southern California, produced HUMAN BEGINNINGS and HUMAN GROWTH (two sex education films for children) for Eddie Albert and has since made a number of other unusual psychological films.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

C 16 WEEKEND AT EASTMAN HOUSE, ROCHESTER:

By today you should already have received our mailing giving details of our projected trip to Eastman House in Rochester. An entire weekend of special screenings has been arranged at which our members will be able to see otherwise unavailable film masterpieces (Garbo - Chaplin - Barrymore - Keaton). We have also arranged for special reduced train and hotel rates. To participate, you must fill out an application and pay in advance for train fare and hotel deposit. Application forms and details are available at the desk in the lobby: do not delay!

REDUCED RATES AT NEW SCHOOL - CINEMA 16 COURSE

You can still enroll in "The Film and its Related Arts" course, presented by Cinema 16 at the New School at considerably reduced rates available to members only. Programs and information: at desk in lobby.

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